[31st October 1935

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know, Sir, for how long this area has been enjoying the non-application of the Cotton Pest Act?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I cannot give the exact date."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know, Sir, what impelled the Government to introduce the Act in that area in spite of various special difficulties of the ryots?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"The department found that the incidence of the disease was getting higher."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know, Sir, if there are any proposals before the Government to repeal the Cotton Pest Act in that area as it is a difficult problem for them?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"The matter is under the consideration of Government."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know whether the Government are issuing statements every year as to how the Act is working?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I do not know exactly what the hon. Member means."

Co-operation

Discontinuance of the annual departmental conference of Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

* 357 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any annual departmental conferences of Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies are being held now; and

(*b*) if not, why this system has been stopped?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The system was stopped as a measure of retrenchment in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether these annual departmental conferences were found to serve any useful purpose in the past?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I think so."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"If so, may I ask the Government to be pleased to consider the question of reviving these annual conferences?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"It is purely a question of finance; if finances permit, we shall consider the question of having these annual conferences."